

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01 NSF-01 NAS-01

FEA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 /101 W

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R 301352Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1580

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, FR, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOVIET S&T COOPERATION

OES FOR ROOT

REF: STATE 273747, PARIS 33738,

1. FRENCH EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE RIEU (PRTOECT) PROVIDED SCICOUNS FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OES IN THE LIGHT OF SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF S&T AGREEMENT, REPORTED STATE 273748. RIEU SAID FRENCH HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING "MULTI-MINISTERIAL" COORDINATION PROBLEMS ON THE SOVIET SIDE SIMILAR TO THOSE OCCURRING ON THE US-USSR SPECIALIZED BILATERALS. AS A RESULT, FRENCH SOUGHT AND OBTAINED CHANGE IN WORDING OF FRENCH-SOVIET S&T BILATERAL IN FEBRUARY 1976 TO REFLECT COORDINATING ROLE FOR SCST. THE WORDING OF THE AGREEMENT NOW STATES "THE COMMISSION CONFERS TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARIATS OF BOTH SIDES (I.E. SCST AND CNRS) THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSURING THE NECESSARY COORDINATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMS OF SCIENTISTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AS A FUNCTION OF THE QUOTA RESERVES FOR THESE EXCHANGES." RIEU SAID THE SOVIET PERFORMANCE ON THE AGREEMENT HAS

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IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THIS CHANGE WAS MADE, EVEN THOUGH THE

SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET INFORMED THE FRENCH EMBASSY WHICH PERSONNEL AT THE SCST ARE COORDINATING THE BILATERAL.

2. RIEU MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON FRENCH-SOVIET PROGRAM:

(A) ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROCEEDING FAIRLY WELL, WITH DISPROPORTIONATE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION ON AIR, WATER AND MARINE POLLUTION SOMEWHAT OFFSET BY COOPERATION IN NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT. (THIS CONFLICTS WITH QUAI OPINION REPORTED PARIS 33738).

(B) FRENCH HAVE MAJOR PROBLEM IN FINDING HEALTH RESEARCHERS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOVIETS, AND THIS PROGRAM WILL BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP ALIVE.

(C) ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE OVERALL VOLUME OF EXCHANGES CONCERN SYMPOSIA HELD IN FRANCE, TO WHICH THE FRENCH INVITE SOVIET COUNTERPARTS BY NAME. IF SOVIETS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THEIR LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, FRENCH SIDE ROUTINELY CANCELS SYMPOSIUM.

(D) FRENCH EMBASSY WAS PLAGUED BY NUMEROUS INSISTENT SOVIET VISA REQUESTS FOR SCIENTISTS WITHOUT NECESSARY IDENTIFICATION OF FRENCH HOST INSTITUTE, NATURE OF EXCHANGE PROGRAM, ETC. EMBASSY INSTITUTED PROCEDURE WHEREBY VISAS WERE GRANTED UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES; HOWEVER, ONCE SCIENTISTS ARRIVED IN PARIS THEY WERE ENTIRELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PARIS. RIEU REPORTS THAT SOVIETS HAVE SINCE ABANDONED THIS TACTIC, PRESUMABLY ON THE URGENT REQUEST OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW18770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760443-1068
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976114/aaaaaczt.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 273747, 76 PARIS 33738
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH-SOVIET S&T COOPERATION OES FOR ROOT
TAGS: TGEN, PFOR, UR, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006